

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /102 W
-----083791 050315Z /64

R 041348Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4640
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1035

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, LY, EG
SUBJ: LIBYAN MILITARY BUILDUP ON ITS OBRDER WITH EGYPT

REF: TRIPOLI 1018

1. DURING SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION (REFTEL) BETWEEN EMBPOLOFF AND MIDDLE EAST MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AREA OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN MILITARY CLASHES, CORRESPONDENT REPORTED OBSERVING LARGE NUMBER OF LIBYAN APCS AUG 1 HEADING TOWARDS BORDER AREA. SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE HELICOPTER ACTIVITY AT ABDUL NASIR AIR BASE NEAR TOBRUK. (COMMENT: THE SOURCE'S OBSERVATION APPEARED TO SUBSTNATIATE OTHER REPORTS THAT LIBYA CONTINUES TO REINFORCE REGULAR AND MILITIA MILITARY UNITS NEAR

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LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN BORDER. LOCALLY, RESERVISTS CONTINUE TO BE CALLED INTO ARMED FORCES. THE REPORTS OF CONTINUED MILITARY BUILDUP, CALLUP OF RESERVISTS AND LOCAL MEDIA ATTACKS ON SADAT WHO IS ACCUSED OF PLANNING A RENEWED ATTACK ON LIBYA HAVE GENERATED LOCAL SPECULATION THAT JULY 19-24 MILITARY CLASH BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA MAY HAVE BEEN ONLY FIRST ROUND IN

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.)

2. MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT STATED THAT CONSENSUS OF FOREIGN AND U.S. JOURNALISTS INDICATED THAT LIBYA HAD SUCCEEDED IN GIVING IMPRESSION IN MILITARY AND PROPAGANDA TERMS OF BEING THE VICTIM OF EGYPTIAN AGGRESSION. SOURCE STATED THAT JOURNALISTS DEPARTED LIBYA WITH IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIAN ATTACKS INFILCTED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND FEW CASUALTIES. SOURCE STATED THAT CORRESPONDENTS CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION DESPITE PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS BETWEEN THEM AND ORGANIZER OF PRESS TOUR, LIBYAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN LONDON, SAYED QADHAF ADAM, WHO REPORTEDLY INVITED FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE OF RECENT CONFLICT. ADAM REPORTEDLY INSISTED CORRESPONDENTS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE 18-HOUR DESERT BUS TRIP FROM JAGHBUB TO KHUFRA OASIS. AFTER HEATED WORDS, JOURNALISTS FLATLY REFUSED.

CARLE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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